



Federal Bureau of Investigation
Freedom of Information / Privacy Acts
Release

Subject: GUZZINO, JOSEPH

2 memo requests 10/28/65

DIRECTOR, FBI (92-6054)

9/3/65

SAC, CHICAGO (92-1173) (P)

**LA COSA NOSTRA
AR - CONSPIRACY**

b7C

Rerep of SA [redacted] 7/19/65, at
New York and Bureau letter to Chicago 8/20/65.

The Chicago Office from the inception of the Criminal Intelligence Program has been most desirous of ascertaining the identity of LCN members in the Chicago "family", and this office in the past and particularly now, has been very cognizant of any person who might be a member of this organization or any person who we could surmise might be a suspected LCN member. In this area of suspected members, Chicago could only be certain of one person, [redacted] from the Rockford, Illinois, area. He was so listed in the rerep of SA [redacted]. There were many persons who were believed to hold a potential of being groomed for LCN membership or there was a possibility in the making of a person being considered for future initiation into the LCN. These persons were appropriately set forth in rerep under "potential member".

b7C

The Bureau requirements for designating membership in the LCN are very clear and certainly well founded. There are a number of individuals in the Chicago area who are not suspected LCN members but because of their activity, associates and background hold a potential of being groomed at some time or another for inclusion in the membership of this organization. In almost every instance, Chicago is aware of the activities of these persons as potential members through either current or past investigation or through informants who are in a position to know the individuals mentioned.

- 2 - Bureau
1 - New York (92-2311) (Info)
① - Chicago

JWR:plb
(4)

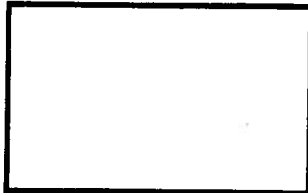
92-1173-1440

Searched _____
Serialized *a* _____
Indexed *a* _____
Filed *92-2012-1* _____

b7C

CG 92-1173

Cases are now opened in the 92 classification on the following persons whose potential appears greatest for future consideration for LCN membership:



b7C

The list of persons set forth in referenced Bureau letter has been carefully reviewed and analyzed. From that list the above cases have been opened and active and intensive investigation is being conducted. In connection with others mentioned the following observations are made:

MIKE CALDARULO (deceased)

[redacted] (LCN member, resides in Italy but is United States citizen. Dend file maintained.)

NICK CIRCELLA (deported to South America but now resides Mexico City, Mexico.)

b7C

[redacted] (incarcerated U. S. penitentiary.)

JOSEPH LISCANDRELLA (deceased)

b7C

[redacted] (recent review of [redacted] shows not LCN member)

b2

b7D

The Chicago Office at the present time has pending cases in other classifications concerning the following:

b7C

CG 92-1173

[REDACTED] (165-462)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (166-83)
[REDACTED] aka. [REDACTED] (162-647)
[REDACTED] (166-83)

b2

b7C

b7D

b7C

JOHN VARELLI (92-1358) (P* with current FHA investigation being conducted)

In connection with other individuals listed as potential members, the Chicago Office is in a position to remain abreast of their activities through sources and corollary investigations. In some instances the person is a known cartage or jewel thief who associates principally with persons in the organized criminal element in Chicago. Their background and national origin is such that at some time in the future such a person could be considered for grooming as an LCN member. There are several persons who are active in the "juice" racket or who are regarded only as "collectors", yet their associates are close to organized crime and the person's background and origin such that they could be considered for grooming in the LCN. In some instances the persons mentioned have been known to this office for many years and previous investigations have indicated that although close to LCN members and probably used by them no information is known that he is a member or suspected member, yet, such a persons would hold potential for constant future evaluation. In almost every instance information is forthcoming concerning these persons, consequently no AR investigation is being initiated at this time, UACB.

[REDACTED]
JOHN DI BIAZE
JOHN RECABOTTA

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
ANTHONY DE ROSE
[REDACTED]

b7C

CG 92-1173

RALPH EMERY
JOSEPH GUZZINO

A/R

b7C

The Chicago Office attempts to carefully review any and all information obtained from both 92 matters and gambling investigations. Whenever it is determined that the individual is worthy of additional investigation, such inquiries are made or an appropriate 92 case is opened with emphasis on his LCN connections.

Chicago will conscientiously remain alert to their responsibilities in the area of the Criminal Intelligence Program. Every effort is being extended to insure that no person is overlooked who offers any potential as LCN material through his associates or his activities.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC CHICAGO [REDACTED] b2 b7D DATE 10/29/65

FROM : SA [REDACTED] b7C

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] b7C

☐ CI ☐ SI☒ PCI ☐ PSI☐

Dates of Contact

9/23/65, 10/20/65

Titles and File #s on which contacted

92-2012

JOE GUZZINO

92-2013

RALPH EMERY b7C

92-1733

Purpose and results of contact

☐ NEGATIVE☒ POSITIVE

Informant advised that numerous south side hoodlums, namely JOE GUZZINO, RALPH EMERY, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have been observed frequently at the Vagabond Lounge from approximately the hours of 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. This lounge is located in Chicago Heights, Illinois.

[REDACTED] apparently has a financial interest in the Vagabond Lounge and the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

☐ Informant certified that he has furnished all information obtained by him since last contact.

Rating

Same

Coverage

Same

Personal Data

1- [REDACTED] Tickler

b2

b7D

75-1011-21
C
F

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, CHICAGO (92-2012)

DATE December 1, 1965

FROM : [REDACTED] b7C
CORRELATION CLEAR

SUBJECT: JOSEPH GUZZINO, aka Joe Gazino,
Joe Gazzino, Joe Guzino, "Big
Joe" Guzzino, "Handsome Joe"
AR

This memorandum contains all identical criminal references.

The following main files are identical with the subject:

166-28/
166-96*
166-28*
58-379*

It should be noted that serial 10 of 166-28 and serial 10 of 58-379 are correlation memos on the subject of this memorandum.

I. GENERAL CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

92-920-852 p. 10

b7C

No report of SA [REDACTED] dated August 14, 1963, at Chicago, re FRANK LA PORTE.

[REDACTED]
Calumet City, Illinois

b7C

b2

b7D

[REDACTED] advised SA [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED] that JOE GUZZINO stated [REDACTED] in Hammond, Indiana. This was formerly a horse book operation operated by [REDACTED] also known as [REDACTED] stated to the informant [REDACTED] in Hammond, Indiana. [REDACTED]

b7C

b7D

1 - SA [REDACTED]

PR
(2)

b7C

92-2012-3
FBI - CHICAGO
DEC 2 1965

On July 21, 1963, [redacted] was observed leaving the 5 O'Clock Club in Calumet City, Illinois, at 11:50 a.m. He drove directly to La Cortes Liquors, East 14th Street, Chicago Heights, Illinois. There he picked up two individuals and the three of them drove to the Vagabond Lounge in the Thomas Hotel. He was then observed talking to [redacted] and RALPH EMERY at the Vagabond Lounge.

Addition spot checks of GUZZINO reflects that he is constructing a building at 159th and Burnham Avenue in Calumet City, Illinois. Chief LINKIEWICZ checked the village records and determined that GUZZINO obtained a building permit for the construction of a drive-in restaurant in the 600 block of Burnham Avenue. b7C

[redacted] and other unidentified individuals are often at the site and appear to be interested in its construction. Inquiry at the service station located directly across the street from the construction site indicates that the location is not desirable as a drive-in restaurant and it is assumed from neighbors that GUZZINO is trying to conduct some illegal activity on the premises.

Page 15

[redacted] advised SA [redacted] that JOE GUZZINO, owner of the Five O'Clock Club, Calumet City, Illinois, is a friend and associate of FRANK LA PORTE. GUZZINO is presently engaged in building a new drive-in restaurant in Calumet City. b2 b7D b7C

92-1173-Sub A-77

The October 2, 1963, issue of the "Chicago Sun Times", Five Star Final Turf Edition, Page 28, Column 3, contained an article captioned "1,000 on U. S. Cosa Nostra List".

A national roster of more than 1,000 Cosa Nostra members and their associates has been assembled by the Justice Department, it was learned Tuesday.

The list was prepared by Government prosecutors for use by all federal law-enforcement agencies investigating the terrorist gang brotherhood,

CG 92-2012

More than fifty Chicago gangsters are on the list

JOE GUZZINO is listed, among numerous others.

92-1371-41 p. 6

Re report of SA [redacted] dated May 4, 1964, at Chicago, re [redacted]

b7C

[redacted] advised SAs [redacted] and [redacted] that there is presently a big poker game held on the weekends at the Lincoln Athletic Club on 14th Street in Chicago Heights, Illinois. [redacted]

b2

b7C

b7D

On April 13, 1964, JOE GUZZINO was interviewed at the 5 O'Clock Club, Calumet City, Illinois. He admitted being a professional gambler and in friendship with [redacted] as well as other unknown hoodlums. He denied that he had any knowledge of [redacted] background or activities and stated he did not know the source of [redacted] income. b7C

162-14-934 p. 2

[redacted] was contacted by SA [redacted] on September 4 and 10, 1964.

b2

b7D

Informant advised [redacted] has [redacted] Cicero, Illinois. It has several locations and he is assisted by JOE GUZZINO. It has been open for three weeks.

92-1173-383 p. 25

Re report of SA [redacted] dated May 17, 1965 at Chicago re LA COSA NOSTRA.

Potential La Cosa Nostra Members, Chicago

CG 92-2012

Numerous individuals have been reported by sources of the Chicago Office to be connected in some way with the organized criminal element in Chicago, and/or the Chicago "family". Insufficient information is available at this time to definitely state whether these persons are or are not connected with the la Cosa Nostra. It should be noted that in most instances these people are currently actively engaged in activities which are directly controlled or operated by the Chicago "family".

JOSEPH GUZZINO was listed among numerous others.

92-1278-477 p. 15

Re report of SA [redacted] dated August 25, 1965, at Chicago, re Juice Racket.

b7C

[redacted] was contacted by SA [redacted] on June 25, 1965, and [redacted] advised "HANDSOME JOE" (LNU), [redacted]

b7D

[redacted] of the girls in the night clubs, recently borrowed \$100.00 from a juice man, which \$100.00 he loaned to a stripper who was going to work in a club in Danville, Illinois. This girl to date has not repaid the money to "HANDSOME JOE" and he has been unable to repay the juice man.

b7C

b7D

On June 26, 1965, [redacted] talked to "HANDSOME JOE" [redacted] and "HANDSOME JOE" [redacted]

b7C

[redacted] contact [redacted] who will send him to the right man.

b7D

92-1278-460 p. 2

[redacted] CI, advised SA [redacted] on July 2, 1965, that the stripper for whom "HANDSOME JOE" at the Regency Hotel borrowed \$100.00 on juice in order that she could purchase a gown [redacted] is now in Belxie, Mississippi, with [redacted] working in a club.

b7C

Informant stated that "HANDSOME JOE" has been told that the "outfit" expects their money and he should obtain same from the girl or suffer the consequence.

b2

b7D

CG 92-2012

b7C

92-1733-13

b7D

[redacted] was contacted by SA [redacted]
[redacted] on July 30; August 20, 1965.

Informant attended the funeral of ROSE LA RUE on August 20, 1965 and observed FRANK LA PORTE riding in the same car with [redacted] JOE GUZZINO of Calumet City, Illinois. He expressed surprise inasmuch as he had always heard that GUZZINO was just a gambler and held no authority in the crime syndicate.

b7C

92-920-1251

Re memo of SA [redacted] dated August 26, 1965, re [redacted]

[redacted] advised that [redacted]
[redacted] JOHN ROBERTS (deceased)
a former well-known hoodlum of the Chicago Heights area.
[redacted]
[redacted] Illinois, and maintains [redacted]
[redacted] Illinois.

b7C

He advised that although he refrains from asking questions, he does pick up various pieces of information regarding the hoodlum element from his relatives by marriage.

He recently learned from a member of the [redacted] family that certain hoodlums, which includes [redacted] ALPH MERY and JOE GUZZINO are angry with FRANK LA PORTE, who holds a position of power in the Chicago Heights area of the hoodlum empire.

b7C

The following reference is located in the C-1 Supervisor's Office and should be reviewed by the Agent:

92-350-Sub U-94

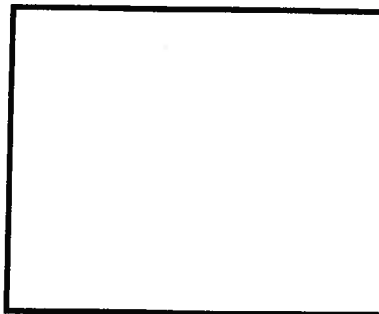
11/30/65

AIRTEL

TO : SAC, INDIANAPOLIS
FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (92-2012)
SUBJECT: JOSEPH GUZZINO
AR

Subject who was formerly prominent in gambling circles in Hammond, Indiana and Calumet City, Illinois, presently under investigation and efforts being made to obtain recent photograph. Chief of Police, Calumet City, Illinois, advised he believes recalling a photo of subject appearing in the "Hammond Times" newspaper.

Indianapolis requested to review the "morgue" of the above paper and attempt to obtain photograph and other pertinent information.



b7C

2 - Indianapolis
1 - Chicago
TWP/sfm
(3)

[Handwritten signature]

92-2012-4
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

CG 92-2012

ADMINISTRATIVE

This report contains summary of information located through a search of the Chicago indices.

INFORMANTS

<u>Informant</u>	<u>Date of Contact</u>	<u>Contacting Agent</u>
<div>b2 b7C b7D</div> <div></div>	7/14/50	
	1/25/58	
	5/23/60	SA <div></div>
	11/1/61	SA <div>b7C</div>

- B* -
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to

1 - USA, Chicago

b7C

Report of
DateSA [REDACTED]
December 27, 1965

Office: Chicago, Illinois

Field Office File

92-2012

Bureau File #

Title

JOSEPH GUZZINO

Character

ANTI-RACKETEERING

Synopsis

This subject resides at 1065 Wentworth Avenue, Calumet City, Illinois. He is 66 years of age and has been associated with illegal activities since the 1930s. He previously operated houses of prostitution in Illinois and wire room services in Louisville, Kentucky. He is presently regarded as a gambler. Shows legitimate income as owner of Ambros Restaurant, Calumet City, Illinois.

- 1 -

CG 92-2012

DETAILS:

Birth

Records of the Illinois Driver's License Section, Secretary of States Office, Springfield, Illinois, disclosed the subject was born March 17, 1899. Records of the United States Passport Office, Chicago, Illinois, disclosed that in 1959 the subject listed his date of birth as March 16, 1899 at Donaldsonville, Louisiana.

Residences

Chief of Police CASMIR LINKIEWICZ, Calumet City, Illinois Police Department, advised on December 15, 1965 that GUZZINO resides at 1065 Wentworth Avenue in Calumet City and has so lived there for many years. Driver's License Records at the Secretary of States Office in Springfield, Illinois disclosed in 1957 that JOE GUZZINO resided at 1065 Wentworth Avenue. In 1946 GUZZINO admitted to Louisville, Kentucky police that he had recently resided at 2321 Coliseum Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana, and that he was at that time residing at an undisclosed address in Louisville. On September 30, 1946 information indicated that GUZZINO often utilized the address of 16th and Hanover, Chicago Heights, Illinois, as his permanent address. This address was actually the residence of his father. In 1943, records of the Illinois Bell Telephone Company disclosed that JOE GUZZINO resided at 33 West 29th Street, Chicago Heights, Illinois.

Marital Status

The subject in 1956 supplied information for medical records, which disclosed that he was married to [REDACTED] b7C
was born [REDACTED] He
indicated that he had [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Relatives

GUZZINO filed application with the United States Passport Office in which he indicated he had one brother, two sisters, and two daughters. The application was filed in 1959.

Illegal Activities

In 1943 a source advised that JOE GUZZINO of Chicago Heights was in contact with various houses of prostitution in La Salle County, Illinois and in particular, The Gay Mill, The Elms, The 199 Club, and Paul Maggie's Pop Inn.

On September 22, 1943, JOE DINEN, Chief of Police, Flossmoor, Illinois, advised that he believed JIMMY EMERY is the "boss" of all the known gangsters and that JOE GUZZINO is the head of the prostitution racket. He stated that GUZZINO formerly operated the barbeque joint on the junction of Cret Monsee Road and Dixie Highway. He stated that to his knowledge there were no open houses of prostitution operating in the City of Chicago Heights because the mayor had forbidden it, but that there were several outside the city limits. He stated the Thomas Hotel was the headquarters for GUZZINO and other "top boys." GUZZINO's [redacted] was stated to be a [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

b7C

[redacted] Illinois, advised in 1944 that a man named JIM EMERY ran the horse racing, prostitution, gambling, and slot machines for the Chicago Heights gangsters. JOE GUZZINO and [redacted]

[redacted]

In 1944, a Louisville, Kentucky policeman advised that JOE GUZZINO had contacted him and advised him that he had recently come up from New Orleans, Louisiana. He denied any association with [redacted] of Joliet, Illinois but admitted knowing [redacted] from Chicago Heights, Illinois. [redacted] in Louisville, advised that "BIG JOE" GUZZINO is supposed to be a representative of [redacted] and was in Louisville allegedly carrying a lot of money for [redacted]

b7C

In 1939, information indicates that JOE GUZZINO operated houses of prostitution in Chicago Heights, Illinois and was believed to be involved in the highjacking of a load of whiskey in Louisville.

[redacted] was interviewed in 1947 and admitted a friendship with JOE GUZZINO, FRANK LA PORTE, and [redacted] He confirmed that LA PORTE has a jukebox concession in South Cook County, Illinois and GUZZINO is associated with him.

b7C

[redacted] advised in 1950 that JOE GUEZZINO and a [redacted] have been reported to him by prostitutes as the contact men in the Chicago area for all houses of prostitution in Nuley, Wisconsin, upper Michigan, Indiana, and the Chicago area. He stated that he did not know who these men were or where they resided, but that prostitutes coming into Chicago contacted these men and if they could not reach them, they would go to the driver of radio cab 56 in Chicago Heights, Illinois. GUEZZINO and [redacted] would reportedly place the girls in houses and require \$15 a week protection money and also charge them \$5 a day for room and board. In 1950, information indicating that JOE GUEZZINO is associated with RALPH KERRY in the operation of the Swing Club at 104 State Street, Calumet City, Illinois. He reportedly has the syndicate control concession on cigarette vending machines. [redacted] advised in 1958 that

Informant [redacted]
and to [redacted]

JOE GUEZZINO

[redacted] Indiana, which is a house of prostitution. These two individuals exhibited several suits of Hickey-Freeman and indicated they would have a wider collection in the near future. [redacted] In 1960 advised that JOE GUEZZINO is a heavy gambler and that he can often be observed at various race tracks in Chicago. He advised that GUEZZINO is [redacted] and that GUEZZINO has charge of most of the gambling done in Calumet City.

On September 23, 1961, the "Chicago Tribune" (daily newspaper) contained an article which reads as follows:

"A survey by Tribune reporters revealed that discretion is a word unknown to the gamblers and panders of Kankakee County, Illinois."

One of the big city gangsters attempted unsuccessfully to force their booky wire service into Kankakee. The next attack came in the 1940's from [redacted] and JOE GUEZZINO, pals of FRANK LA PORTE. [redacted] and GUEZZINO were foiled in an effort to establish a vice-base in Kankakee.